

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 005878

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC, PFOR, EI

SUBJECT:FITZGERALD VISIT: US-EC CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 1438

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1. HARTMAN AND OTHER DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS MET WITH KEATING,

GALLAGHER, AND DORR DURING FITZGERALD VISIT FOR FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSIONS ON ENERGY, US-EC CONSULTATIONS, CYPRUS, AND BILATERAL ISSUES. THIS MESSAGE SUMMARIZES HARTMAN EXCHANGE WITH KEATING AND DORR ON US-EC CONSULTATIONS. SUBJECT ALSO DISCUSSED MORE BRIEFLY DURING SECRETARY'S CONVERSATIONS WITH FITZGERALD (SEPTEL).

2. HARTMAN STRESSED THAT THE US IS FLEXIBLE REGARDING HOW WE GO ABOUT OUR DIALOGUE WITH THE EC NINE BUT WE MUST EXCHANGE VIEWS BEFORE POSITIONS BECOME FIXED. WE HOPE TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE IRISH DURING THEIR CHAIRMANSHIP. IN A CONVERSATION WITH FRENCH POLITICAL DIRECTOR PUAUX IN PARIS LAST OCTOBER, PUAUX HAD REJECTED SUGGESTION THAT AN OCCASIONAL MEETING BETWEEN SENIOR US OFFICIALS AND THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS MIGHT BE USEFUL, WHEN THERE WERE MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST TO DISCUSS AND WHEN HARTMAN, SONNENFELDT, OR OTHERS MIGHT BE TRAVELING IN EUROPE ON OTHER BUSINESS. THE MOST SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE IN OUR DIALOGUE DURING THE PAST YEAR WAS THE MIDDLE EAST. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IN OUR MUTUAL INTEREST TO HAVE RECOGNIZED MORE CLEARLY THE NEED TO STICK CLOSELY TOGETHER. A CURRENT TOPIC OF IMPORTANCE IS CSCE. AS WE APPROACH THE END TO STAGE TWO, WE MUST KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE EC IN GENEVA, PERHAPS ON A DAILY BASIS.

3. KEATING RESPONDED THAT THE IRISH ARE ANXIOUS TO AVOID CONFRONTATIONS. IN THE PAST THESE HAVE ARISEN LARGELY FROM INDISCRETIONS, FROM PEOPLE TALKING TOO MUCH BEFORE DECISIONS ARE MADE AND THUS CREATING FALSE IMPRESSIONS. THERE MUST BE A CONSENSUS EMERGING AMONG THE NINE BEFORE THEY CAN SPEAK. ON THE OTHER HAND, POSITIONS MUST NOT HARDEN TOO MUCH BEFORE CONSULTING. IT IS A PROBLEM OF TIMING. THE GOI WILL KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE US EMBASSY IN DUBLIN, ALTHOUGH, OF COURSE, THE EMBASSY IS SMALL AND THE US AMBASSADOR WILL BE LEAVING. DORR WILL TALK TO THE EMBASSY AFTER EACH POLITICAL DIRECTOR'S MEETING, THE SAME DAY IF POSSIBLE. THERE MUST ALSO BE A MEANS OF HEARING FROM THE US SIDE. THIS CAN OCCUR EITHER IN WASHINGTON OR DUBLIN. WHEN US OFFICIALS ARE TRAVELING IN EUROPE, THEY WOULD BE WELCOME TO STOP BY IN DUBLIN. CONFIDENTIAL

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4. DORR ADDED THAT EUROPE'S DIFFICULTIES IN FEELING ITS WAY TOWARDS A DECISION-MAKING PROCESS SOMETIMES PLACE AN ADDED STRAIN ON THE US-EC DIALOGUE. THERE IS AN ASYMMETRY IN OUR RESPECTIVE DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES WHICH CAUSES PROBLEMS. UNLIKE THE US, EUROPE IS DIVIDED INTO A SERIES OF SEPARATE GROUPINGS - NATO, THE EC, ETC. THE EC ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY IS CUMBERSOME AND SLOW.

5. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT WHETHER THE US IS SATISFIED WITH THE STATE OF OUR CONSULTATIONS, HARTMAN RESPONDED POSITIVELY BUT SAID THAT THEY HAVE BEEN UNSATISFACTORY IN ONE SENSE. WHILE THE FRENCH KEPT THEIR PROMISE TO REPORT TO US ON POLITICAL COOPERATION MEETINGS, WE FOUND IN GENERAL THAT OUR DIALOGUE WITH SOME OTHER EC MEMBERS WAS MORE SATISFACTORY THAN OUR DIALOGUE WITH THE PRESIDENCY. THE FRENCH INDICATED THAT THEY LACKED A MANDATE FROM THE OTHERS. IN ALL FRANKNESS, WE FOUND THAT THE FRENCH GAVE US LESS FULL REPORTS THAN WE OBTAINED ELSEWHERE. THIS WAS NOT SO MUCH TRUE OF THE GERMAN PRESIDENCY. THE IMPRESSION WE GAINED FROM MARTINIQUE, HOWEVER, IS THAT GISCARD AND SAUVAGNARGUES ARE NOW ANXIOUS TO COOPERATE. WE BELIEVE THAT WE MAY HAVE A BETTER DIALOGUE THAN IN THE PAST BUT THERE WILL HAVE TO BE SOME CHANGES.

6. KEATING OBSERVED THAT THE FRENCH ARE A SPECIAL CASE. PUAUX AND BRUNET ARE LEAVING AND THAT MAY HELP. THE IRISH WANT TO BE AS OPEN AS POSSIBLE, BUT THE PRESIDENCY IS OFTEN INHIBITED BY THE RESTRAINTS PLACED ON IT BY THE OTHERS. KISSINGER

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